

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A paper making, industrial elastic belt (~~11; 21; 31~~) formed of an elastic material endlessly in a cylinder and having an inner surface (~~11b; 21b; 31b~~) and/or an outer surface (~~11a; 21a; 31a~~) thermally pressed and thus smoothed.

2. (Currently Amended) The paper making, industrial elastic belt of claim 1, wherein said inner surface (~~11b; 21b; 31b~~) and/or said outer surface (~~11a; 21a; 31a~~) have/has a surface roughness of at most 20 μm (Rz).

3. (Currently Amended) A method of producing a papermaking, industrial elastic belt, comprising the step of thermally pressing an inner surface (~~11b; 21b; 31b~~) and/or an outer surface (~~11a; 21a; 31a~~) of an elastic belt (~~11; 21; 31~~) formed of an elastic material endlessly in a cylinder to smooth said inner surface and/or outer surface.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of producing a papermaking, industrial elastic belt, of claim 3, wherein the step of thermally pressing employs a hot plate (~~13a; 13b~~) having a temperature of 50 to 170°C to press said inner surface (~~11b~~) and/or said outer surface (~~11a~~) of said elastic belt (~~11~~) with a pressure of 0.05 to 10 MPa for 5 seconds to 60 minutes.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of producing a papermaking, industrial elastic belt, of claim 3, wherein in the step of thermally pressing, said elastic belt (~~21; 31~~) is run at a rate of 0.1 to 10 m/min., while a roll (~~22a; 22b; 24; 34a; 34b~~) having a temperature of 50 to 170°C is used to nip said elastic belt's inner surface (~~21b; 31b~~) and/or outer surface (~~21a; 31a~~) with a pressure of 0.5 to 200 kN/m.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of producing a papermaking, industrial elastic belt, of claim 3, wherein the step of thermally pressing allows said elastic belt (~~11; 21; 31~~) to have said inner surface (~~11b; 21b; 31b~~) and/or said outer surface (~~11a; 21a; 31a~~) with a surface roughness of at most 20 μm (Rz).

7. (Currently Amended) The method of producing a papermaking, industrial belt, of claim 3, wherein the step of thermally pressing is performed after said elastic belt ~~(11; 21; 31)~~ has a surface polished.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of producing a papermaking, industrial belt, of claim 3, wherein in the step of thermally pressing, said elastic belt ~~(11; 21; 31)~~ is partially, thermally pressed and then rotated to be moved and then has a thermally unpressed portion thereof thermally pressed.